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HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1940

J. V. WALKER, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.



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Printers:

"The East Kent Times," Ltd.,
85, High Street, Ramsgate,

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer:

W. J. BANNISTER, M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H. (Resigned June 30th, 1940).

J. V. WALKER, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., D.P.H. (from July 1st, 1940).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Deputy School Medical Officer:

J. V. WALKER, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H. (until June 30th, 1940).

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

E. YOUNG., Assoc.R.S.I., F.S.I.A.

Cert. Meat Inspector R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspectors:

T. L. MARTIN, Assoc.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Cert. Meat Inspector R.S.I.

F. BROWN, Assoc.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Cert. Meat Inspector R.S.A. of Scotland.

Health Visitors and School Nurses:

Miss G. D. CLARK, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Miss W. E. CARPENTER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Miss D. GRIFFITHS, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V's. Certificate., R.S.I.

(Resigned Sept. 30th, 1940).

Miss B. WILSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V's. Certificate, R.S.I.

(Appointed January 1st, 1940).

Clerks:

J. S. ROBERTSON.

R. M. IMPETT (Called up for Military Service 31st May, 1940).

A. W. BAILEY (Appointed 27th May, 1940).

Following the resignation of Miss D. Griffiths, Health Visitor, the Council decided at the recommendation of the Health Committee not to fill her place, since in view of the reduced population of the Borough and particularly of those sections of it with which a Health Visitor and School Nurse is mostly concerned, there is insufficient work to justify it.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1940—1941.

Chairman: Councillor T. H. PRESTEDGE, C.C.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Mrs. F. L. DUNN, J.P.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

Councillor W. HAWKINS

(Alderman A. B. C. KEMPE, J.P.)

„ W. G. LOVE

Councillor S. E. AUSTIN

„ JAS. MARTIN

Councillor the Rev. C. R.

„ Mrs. H. L. NICHOLSON

FARNSWORTH, M.A.

„ A. E. PETLEY

MEMBERS OF THE MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE STANDING SUB-COMMITTEE.

1940—1941.

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. F. L. DUNN, J.P.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

Councillor A. E. PETLEY

(Alderman A. B. C. KEMPE, J.P.).

„ T. H. PRESTEDGE, C.C

Councillor W. HAWKINS

Mrs. DEVESON

„ J. MARTIN

Mrs. HORSLEY

„ Mrs. H. L. NICHOLSON

Mrs. WILLCOX

To His Worship the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Ramsgate.

THE YEAR REVIEWED.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health to the Borough of Ramsgate.

The year 1940 has been an outstanding one in the life of the town, which has been dominated and modified in every respect by the progress of the war. Such changes were reflected in the work of the Health Department, where many new problems arose, needing urgent attention.

During the early months of the year, and corresponding to the static phase of hostilities in the first winter, there was a return to a condition not far removed from normality. Routine administration was carried on, somewhat increased in scope by the presence of soldiers billeted in the town and by additional duties of food inspection. There was a mild epidemic of Rubella and sporadic cases of Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, but the latter were never on a scale to cause serious alarm, nor was there the expected outbreak of Measles. A new duty in which the Health Department took an ever increasing part during this time of quiet was the intensive training of the A.R.P. Casualty Personnel, an insurance which amply repaid itself in later months. Weekly exercises for First Aid Party Leaders were undertaken, together with special lectures upon their duties and responsibilities. Larger combined exercises were also arranged in co-operation with the A.R.P. services generally.

Reminders of the war were provided by occasional Air Raid Alerts and the arrival now and again at the Harbour of survivors from disasters at sea.

The German invasion of the Low Countries brought the war appreciably nearer, when the first possibility of the evacuation of the town, or part of it, was discussed. But the changed tempo of the war may be said to have caught up Ramsgate into its stride as from Monday, May 20th, when preliminary notice was received of the proposed evacuation from Dunkirk. The following ten days showed an activity of disembarkation which rose to a climax at the week-end of May 25th-26th, and subsequently declined. During it all the services of the town for which this Department is responsible, or with which it is associated, were fully employed. All the doctors attended as required at the Naval Base to give First Aid to casualties, where they were assisted by the Health Visitors of the Corporation and by First Aid Parties, whose excellent work in removing the injured from the ships was recognised by the Regional Authority. The Ramsgate General Hospital and Holy Cross Hospital were also fully employed, the record high number of in-patients being attained by the former on the night of June 1st. Permanent record should be made of the magnificent way in which so many inhabitants of Ramsgate, and these not all of them the most affluent, rose to the occasion, providing out of their own spontaneous generosity refreshments and some items of clothing for the troops before any organised canteen was available. Later, the Women's Voluntary Service gave valuable aid. During the whole of this laborious time there was no aerial bombardment of the town, a source of considerable surprise and of greater satisfaction.

On June 2nd, the school children were evacuated to Stafford and rural areas in Staffordshire. Subsequently a Health Visitor was loaned to Staffordshire Education Authority to assist in School Medical work. She was recalled later in the year to continue her duties in Ramsgate.

The collapse of France later in June ushered in the next phase of the war, which may be said to have continued to the end of the year. It was characterised by the impending threat of an attempted invasion, by great enemy air activity and not infrequent bombing attacks on the town, by the rise of what may be called the Tunnel Shelter problem, and by certain extensions in the work undertaken by the Health Department, such as its becoming responsible for Home Nursing in the Borough and the establishment of an immunisation scheme against diphtheria and diseases of the typhoid group.

In view of the possibility of invasion, evacuation of the town was carried out to a considerable extent and for a short time, at the end of June and beginning of July, the order for compulsory evacuation was expected daily. Two important aspects of the matter, needing different solutions, were at once apparent, the first of which was the evacuation of the elderly and infirm. The technique of war as understood by the Germans, especially as influenced by the Nazi ideology, does not include too nice a discrimination of the rights of these members of the community, indeed it extends further than the most "progressive" ideals of eugenists and the sponsors of euthanasia. The second problem was the evacuation of women and pre-school children. The former was carried out by the Kent County Council under instructions from the Regional Authority and the first party of evacuees, 107 in number, left the town on June 28th for Pembury Hospital. The local organisation of the scheme entailed a good deal of work not merely in collecting the names of persons eligible for evacuation under it but in contacting them and persuading them to accept the amenity offered to them. In this very considerable undertaking, the Senior Sanitary Inspector and the Staff Ambulance Officer of the A.R.P. Casualty Services gave invaluable assistance. Three similar parties of evacuees were sent at later dates to Pembury Hospital, the last on September 11th, since when the scheme has been in abeyance owing to demands from other sources on available accommodation.

Pembury Hospital was only a clearing station. Subsequently the evacuees were widely scattered among institutions in Wales and the West of England. Some of them and of their friends were perturbed by this remote dispersal, but they should consider in the first place their lot under the actual conditions of invasion, and secondly the fact that Ramsgate has not, as a result of aerial bombardment, become a salubrious place for elderly and invalid people.

The second problem of women and pre-school children was solved by finding billets for them in the localities already ear-marked as reception areas for the population generally in the event of compulsory evacuation. This was carried out through the Town Clerk's Department and satisfactory billets were found for many families in urban areas to the South-west of London. In addition, many evacuated themselves under their own arrangements, as all who were inessential to the life of the town were urged to do, to friends in other localities. Their efforts were facilitated by the power given to this Authority to pay the railway fare of travellers to a "safe" area, i.e., one not itself scheduled for evacuation, and to pay a billeting allowance. When heavy air attacks began on this country in the late summer, a few returned to Ramsgate (which, unfortunately, they were allowed to do) on the grounds that they were safer here than elsewhere, but the success of the evacuation scheme is shewn by the fact that whereas the normal resident population of Ramsgate is estimated at over 34,000, at the end of the year it was little if at all in excess of 14,000 persons.

The first considerable air attack on Ramsgate took place on Monday, August 12th. It was followed on August 24th by the heaviest attack made in the year, and perhaps the heaviest made up to that date on any British town. The enemy, however, achieved for a considerable expenditure of bombs, remarkably few casualties, though damage to property was heavy. Since then, for the rest of the year, intermittent bombing attacks took place, one of them on November 2nd, causing a comparable amount of damage to property to that caused on August 24th, but none of them associated with many casualties. The First Aid Parties throughout showed their mettle and the value of the training they had received and of their experience during the Dunkirk evacuation. Their zeal and efficiency were equalled by all other branches of the A.R.P. Services.

The immediate problems raised by bombing raids were the treatment of the injured and the succour of the homeless. Both were solved without much difficulty through the appropriate channels of First Aid Posts and Hospital on the one hand, and of the Public Assistance on the other. But it was throughout recognised that, owing to the many empty houses in the town, the latter difficulty in particular, was less than it might have been, or might become if heavy raiding were to be continuous, and up to the end of the year various possibilities of providing more extensive Rest Centres than any at present available were being explored.

The Tunnel Shelter Problem arose directly from the effects of the bombing raids. Several factors contributed to it. In the first place the tunnel shelters in Ramsgate undoubtedly provide the safest air raid shelters in the country, if not in the world. A person seeking their protection may truly feel that short

of some million-to-one possibility, such as bomb falling through a ventilating shaft, he is safe. Secondly, the geographical position of Ramsgate led to very frequent air raid alerts during the day and also to a tendency for an attack to be made before any warning had been given. Thus, anyone above ground may have felt himself to be in continuous peril, nor was this more than the truth. Thirdly, there is the psychological effect of the constant use of such shelters. On the one hand, there is the exposure to constant danger, on the other almost perfect safety. A proportion of the population tended to adopt what seemed to them at first sight the easier alternative, and once the temptation to remain below ground was surrendered to, it was soon impossible to resist. Thus, slowly at first, but as the autumn advanced, more rapidly, an underground population grew up, which seldom came out of the tunnels at all, and which erected shanties below ground to live, more or less, in a "home from home." But since under such circumstances no satisfactory home can be made and the worst housing conditions tend to be reproduced, the result was the creation of a slum; as, early in 1941, Lord Horder said.

It must be emphasised that the number that took up this troglodyte existence was small compared to the population of the town, and must be differentiated from those who merely used the tunnel to sleep in during the night. But though the justification for their behaviour no doubt seemed in their eyes sufficient, in fact it was not so, since all had houses above ground, or could have had them if their own homes had been demolished, and every encouragement had been given to them to leave the town. Obviously, a person permanently in the tunnels was no good to the town and, one would think, very little to himself, and also he was a potential source of help to the enemy, since his own deficient morale might easily be communicated to others.

Those who during the day pursued their normal avocations and only retired to the tunnels at night were in a different category. No doubt there are certain parts of the town which have been more heavily attacked than others and inhabitants of them may have felt that they wanted at least undisturbed nights. Even so, a danger to health was created by the use they made of the shelters which, though less objectionable than permanent residence therein, was, it must be remembered, ultra vires to their intended use. This was a problem analogous to that which arose in London and other large cities as a result of bombardment.

Fortunately, 1940 came to an end without any serious epidemic disease breaking out either in the tunnel shelters, or elsewhere. Indeed, in spite of everything, the health of the town remained very good. Nevertheless, the threat of disease below ground seemed to this Department at least as great as the danger of bombing above it, and the latter part of the year saw much thought given by the Chief Officials of the Council, and by the Council itself, to the devising of regulations which should safeguard as far as possible the health of the users of the Tunnel Shelters and limit, in their own interests, the use to which they put them. At the end of December such regulations had been drawn up and approved by the Council. They were awaiting approval and modification by the Regional Commissioner.

In the early Autumn a suggestion was received from the Ministry of Health that inoculation against organisms of the typhoid group should be offered to those who applied for it. The first step was to offer inoculation to the staff of the Ramsgate General Hospital, where it was accepted by nearly all and carried out by Dr. Dunlop. Subsequently members of the Health Department and of the A.R.P. services were canvassed and several accepted the offer. The Ministry of Health did not urge extensive propaganda in this matter which consequently was given only in an unobtrusive manner. A different policy was, however, urged with regard to diphtheria when, in early December, notice was received that immunisation of children against this disease should be carried out as expeditiously and as widely as possible.

It is recognised by epidemiologists that diphtheria is the most lethal of the diseases of childhood, when once extreme infancy has been passed, and that since it is spread by infected droplets from the nose and throat scattered by coughing, sneezing and loud talking, it is peculiarly liable to break out in epidemic form in closely crowded air raid shelters. A form of immunisation has been devised which is highly efficient and without danger and the Minister of Health advised that this should be made available at once and to all. In the areas of many authorities, immunisation schemes had been in operation for many years. This was not true of Ramsgate, but effect was at

once given by the unanimous vote of the Health Committee to the Ministers' recommendation and before the end of the year the first immunisation clinic had been held, while a battery of active propaganda was directed upon all parents among the townspeople, to which they responded satisfactorily.

Another entirely new departure has been the assumption of the function of the Ramsgate and District Nursing Association by the Health Department. The importance of the Nursing Association, which provided Home Nursing facilities to the people at small cost, is clear, but with the diminished population of the town, it found itself in financial straits and was no longer able to carry on. For a short time the requests made to the Health Department by the general practitioners for nursing assistance for their patients were met by the Health Visitors, but their duties were becoming so extensive, including supervision of the Tunnel Shelters by day as a regular routine, that it was impossible to lay this further task upon them. With the permission of the Senior Regional Officer of the Ministry of Health, a certain number of volunteers were obtained from among the personnel of the First Aid Posts and Mobile Units, some of whom were already experienced in district nursing, to undertake this essential service in addition to their other work. The scheme was taken up with enthusiasm and has proved very popular with the doctors of the town as well as providing a small source of revenue to the Corporation and a precedent for a municipal home nursing service after the war.

These are only a few of the many matters which have received consideration by the Health Department during the year. Reference will be found to others in the body of the Report, and special mention must be made of the extra duties taken on by the Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr E. Young, and his assistants with regard to anti-gas precautions in respect of food stuffs and with the cleansing of protective clothing after contamination with gas and the training of personnel in connection with it. These schemes have borne fruit since the period covered by this report, but the plans were laid and the preparations made in 1940.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their constant interest in and support of the work and projects of the Department and to my entire staff, among whom none can be singled out for special thanks, since all have so signally deserved it.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. V. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Clarendon House,
Ramsgate.
July, 1940.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

General Statistics.

Area of Borough in acres	.. .. .	4,778
Population, Census 1931 .. .. .	.. .. .	33,603
Registrar-General's estimate of—		
(a) Resident population, mid-year, 1940	.. .. .	25,800
(b) Average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates	.. .. .	25,800
Comparability factor, 0.89.		
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to rate books	.. .. .	5,500
Rateable Value .. .. .	.. .. .	£257,225
Estimated product of 1d. rate, 40/41	.. .. .	£400

Statistics relating to rainfall and sunshine cannot be given this year as the records have been destroyed by enemy action.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Live Births—			Total	Male	Female	Birth Rate ..	14.1
Legitimate	..	..	342	143	199
Illegitimate	..	..	22	11	11

Still Births—			10	3	7	Rate per thousand total (live and still) births ..	29.3
Legitimate					
Illegitimate					

Deaths	490	263	227	Death Rate (corrected)	16.9
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Rate per thousand
total (live and still)
births.

Deaths from Puerperal causes—

Puerperal sepsis	..	..	..	..	Nil
Other puerperal causes	..	..	..	..	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	47.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	47.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	47.6
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	60
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	1

The following table has been drawn up to render possible a comparison as regards Vital Statistics for 1940 between England and Wales as a whole, and Ramsgate.

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	148 smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000)	London Administrative County.	RAMSGATE.
Rates per 1,000 Population.					
<i>Births:—</i>					
Live	14.6	16.0	15.7	13.7	14.1
Still	0.55	0.64	0.55	0.44	0.43
<i>Deaths:—</i>					
All Causes	14.3	15.8	12.8	17.8	16.9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.04
Diphtheria	0.06	0.07	0.05	0.01	0.04
Influenza	0.32	0.29	0.30	0.18	0.43
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	—
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths under 1 year of age	55	61	54	50	47
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	4.6	5.9	4.4	5.8	2.9

In the above table a (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

MORTALITY TABLE.

Classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Death.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Male.	Female.	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers ..	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	1	3	4
3. Scarlet fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping cough	1	—	1
5. Diphtheria	1	—	1
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system ..	12	9	21
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	2	—	2
8. Syphilitic diseases	1	—	1
9. Influenza	6	5	11
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Acute Polio-myelitis and polio- encephalitis	—	—	—
12. Acute infective encephalitis	1	—	1
13a. Cancer of buccal cavity and œsophagus	2	—	2
13b. Cancer of uterus	—	3	3
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum ..	7	4	11
15. Cancer of breast	—	3	3
16. Cancer of all other sites	22	19	41
17. Diabetes	1	2	3
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	21	25	46
19. Heart disease	57	59	116
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	7	2	9
21. Bronchitis	30	19	49
22. Pneumonia	7	7	14
23. Other respiratory diseases	1	1	2
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ..	8	1	9
25. Diarrhœa under 2 years	1	—	1
26. Appendicitis	—	2	2
27. Other disgestive disorders	2	6	8
28. Nephritis	2	6	8
29. Pueperal and post-abortion sepsis ..	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	—	—
31. Premature birth	2	2	4
32. Congenital malformation, birth in- juries, infant diseases	3	3	6
33. Suicide	2	1	3
34. Road traffic accidents	2	2	4
35. Other violent causes	33	17	50
36. All other causes	28	26	54
All causes	263	227	490

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

It is to be observed with satisfaction that in 1940 there was no maternal death in Ramsgate. There were no notifications of puerperal pyrexia.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The following table shows the causes of the 14 deaths under one year:—

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total
Prematurity	3	1	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	4
Congenital malformations ..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	..	4
Birth injuries	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Acute retropharyngeal abscess	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Broncho-pneumonia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	4
Diarrhoea .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Convulsions .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1

CANCER.

The 60 deaths from cancer are analysed in an abridged manner in the Mortality Table above. They were distributed according to age as follows:—

	Under 25 years	25-45 years	45-65 years	65 years & over	Total
Men	...	4	11	16	31
Women	...	2	9	18	29

STAFF.

A complete list of the staff is given at the beginning of this Report.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The same facilities detailed in previous Annual Reports continued during the year until August 24th, when, as a result of air raid damage to the Laboratory, they were discontinued. Since then specimens submitted by doctors have been forwarded to Maidstone for bacteriological examination at the County Laboratory. The number of examinations carried out by the Medical Officer of Health at the Borough Bacteriological Laboratory was as follows:—

	Number examined.	Positive.
Swabs, for presence of <i>Corynebacterium diphtheriæ</i>	121	9
Sputum, for presence of <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>	54	Nil
Hairs, for ringworm	1	Nil

During the year 31 samples of Graded and Ordinary Milk were submitted for bacteriological examination to the Kent County Laboratory, Maidstone, and 11 were reported upon as being unsatisfactory. Four samples of milk supplied to schools were examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli and three were reported to be negative.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The two ambulances of the St. John Ambulance Brigade continued to be adequate for the ordinary needs of civilian sickness in the town and also co-operated as and when required in removing survivors brought into the harbour, and in A.R.P. work.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

For the first eight months of the year, home nursing was carried out by the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, which had taken over the work in November, 1939. Then, as a result of financial embarrassment, it was unable to continue to give its services in this area and all home nursing lapsed.

With the consent of the Senior Regional Officer of the Ministry of Health, a nursing service has been arranged in co-operation with volunteers from among A.R.P. personnel allocated to the two Mobile Units, which has proved adequate to all calls made upon it. One of the Health Visitors has been detailed to co-ordinate the various activities in close contact with the Health Office, through which all requests for nursing assistances are transmitted. Such requests are made personally by the practitioners in the town and no others are admitted, so that the work of the nurses is only carried out on medical advice and under medical directions. Two nurses, the Health Visitor attached to the service, and the Charge Nurse of Mobile Unit No. 1, are State registered, while the others who co-operate have all been trained in home nursing. Both patients and practitioners are very satisfied with the services rendered.

Up to the end of the year no decision had been taken by the Health Committee as to what charge, if any, should be made to patients for nursing services. The intention was that some scale similar to that already introduced by the Queen's Institute of District Nursing should be adopted, i.e., in order to reimburse the Corporation for materials and apparatus used.

The following is an analysis of work carried out up to December 31st:—

Number of individual patients attended	..	..	..	37
Number of visits made	..	..	..	375

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

Until the evacuation of school children on June 2nd, all the ordinary treatment centres and clinics were in operation, though some, such as the ophthalmic clinic for children, worked under difficulties, in this case owing to the calling up of the specialist officer, Dr. F. W. G. Smith, employed by the Corporation to attend it. Subsequent to evacuation, all regular clinics for the treatment of school children were in abeyance. Special cases continued to be seen occasionally by the Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer, and were referred, if necessary, to the Ramsgate General Hospital for the advice of the Ear, Nose and Throat and Orthopædic specialists.

Anti-natal and child welfare clinics continued with small interruption to meet at Curtis House, Princes Street, throughout the year.

Towards the end of the year, in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health, use was made of the facilities provided by the First Aid Posts at Priory Road and the Health Centre to immunise persons against organisms of the typhoid group and against diphtheria.

HOSPITALS.

(a) **Public.** The Isle of Thanet Joint Hospital Board's Infectious Diseases Hospital at Haine was evacuated at the end of June and taken over for other purposes. Since then infectious cases have been admitted in the first place to the Herne Bay and Whistable Joint Board's Hospital at Herne Bay and alternatively to infectious diseases hospitals at Eastry, Milton and Canterbury. The arrangement has worked satisfactorily, but it was found impossible to arrange for the hospitalisation of severe and complicated cases of measles and whooping cough. Fortunately no necessity arose to find a bed in hospital for any such case.

(b) **Voluntary.** The Ramsgate General Hospital has continued to meet the civilian needs of the town. At the beginning of the war the number of available beds was increased to 136 from 101, in order to provide for expected casualties, but following the partial evacuation of the town in June, 1940, this was reduced to 75, of which not more than 10 per cent., i.e. seven beds, were allowed to be occupied at any one time. When for any reason this number has been exceeded, patients have been transferred to hospitals inland. Thus the potential use of the hospital for ordinary requirements has been much reduced, except as a place of intermediate reception, but fortunately, owing to the good health of the town, even its reduced capacity has proved sufficient.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Notification of Births. During the year 296 births were notified. Of these, 290 were live births and nine were still births. No births were not notified. Of the live births, doctors notified 108, midwives 170, doctors and midwives nine.

Institutional Provision for Expectant Mothers. The scheme under which complicated cases and others unsuitable for confinement at home are admitted to the Maternity Ward of the Ramsgate General Hospital continued during the year, in spite of the limited accommodation available at the Hospital. Seven mothers were admitted under the scheme.

Since 4th June, 1940, a means of evacuation of expectant mothers has been in operation, organised by the Ministry of Health and administered through the Kent County Council. The essence of its administration is that expectant mothers in the town are advised of the opportunity to evacuate for their confinement through the midwives, the health visitors and the ante-natal clinic, and their names are reported to the County Medical Officer twice a month, together with the expected date of confinement. His department in its turn is advised of vacancies in the maternity homes set up by the Ministry of Health for this purposes and arranges to fill them from the list at its disposal. A party for evacuation is made up, not less often than twice a month; the County Health Department passing on information to this department of the number, suggested names and destination of each party. Sometimes this authority has arranged for the provision of a vehicle, sometimes not; sometimes one of the County Midwives practising in Ramsgate has been detailed to accompany the party.

During 1940, 53 expectant mothers availed themselves of this amenity, and were very well satisfied with the treatment they received.

While every help is given to them to use this scheme of evacuation, no assistance is offered to bring them back after confinement. It is tacitly hoped that they will remain subsequently in reception areas.

The charges made to expectant mothers for their maintenance and medical attention are moderate and strictly graded according to ability to pay.

Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre. The premises belonging to the Corporation, Curtis House, in Princes Street, continued to be used during the year as the Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre. For a short period during the later summer, the baby clinics were suspended, but ante-natal clinics were held continuously. Though reduced in numbers, attendance at both kinds of clinic kept up fairly well throughout the year. This is not a cause for unmixed congratulation, since if the townspeople had evacuated themselves as they had been urged to do, there would have been few, if any, expectant mothers or young children to attend them.

The number of children and attendances during 1940 were as follows:—

Total number of children who first attended during the year
and who on the date of their first attendance were

Under 1 year of age	..	..	..	..	..	200
1-5 years of age	..	..	..	..	..	24

Total number of children who attended and who at the end
of the year were

under 1 year of age	..	..	..	..	..	161
1-5 years of age	..	..	..	..	..	311

Total number of attendances by children

under 1 year of age	..	..	..	..	..	2,665
1-5 years of age	..	..	..	..	..	1,526

Mothers' Clinic.

Number of expectant mothers who attended	..	..	..	147
Number of mothers who attended for post-natal advice	..	..	..	3

Supply of Milk.

The scheme for the provision of milk to expectant mothers and infants continued to operate as in previous years until modified by Circular 2053 of the Ministry of Health, dated 19th June, 1940, which transferred the responsibility of providing liquid milk at a reduced rate (2d. a pint) or free of charge, according to means, from the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee of the Corporation to the Ministry of Food, working through the local Food Office. A similar scheme for the provision of dried milk was foreshadowed, but as it did not come into operation during the year, the arrangements already made for the supply of dried milk were continued.

In any case the circular stated that the powers of the Welfare Authorities to provide milk additional to this scheme where medical necessity dictated it were in no way affected and the Council directed that the Medical Officer of Health should maintain, as he recommended, a supply of proprietary dried milks for special cases.

The total amount of milk supplied by the Town Council was as follows:—

Liquid milk	..	..	..	..	..	16,368 pints
Dried milk	..	..	..	..	..	5,012 lbs.

Work of Health Visitors.

The following summary shows briefly the visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year:—

Number of infants under 1 year visited for the first time	..	296
Number of infants under 1 year visited	..	658
Total visits to infants under 1 year	..	1,561
Number of children 1-5 years visited	..	1,252
Total visits to children 1-5 years	..	3,345
Number of expectant mothers visited	..	88
Total visits to expectant mothers	..	99
Total visits to homes in connection with cases of infectious diseases	..	11

Infant Life Protection.

The Health Visitors act as Infant Life Protection Visitors, and during the year they paid 73 visits to such children.

The numbers on the registers were:—

			Foster-Mothers.	Children.
On 1st January, 1940	..	..	12	22
On 31st December, 1940	..	..	2	2

There were no deaths of foster-children and no proceedings were taken.

The fall in numbers of both foster-mothers and children was due, of course, to the partial evacuation of the town.

Nursing Homes.

Two nursing homes were on the register at the end of the year, one registered for one maternity patient and the other for eight medical patients. Neither home was in operation during the second six months of the year, the eight medical patients being evacuated early in July to other areas. Thus their retention on the register is purely formal. No visits of inspection were paid during the year.

Medical Practitioners were requested, as in previous years, to inform this Department of any unregistered homecoming to their notice.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Public Water Supply. There was no change in the supply during the year. The quality of the water was well maintained, as was the examination of samples, which were submitted twice monthly for bacteriological examination, and once every quarter for chemical analysis. As hitherto, a double check was maintained on the supply by examinations performed in the Water Department's Laboratory as well as at the County Laboratory at Maidstone.

The average daily consumption was 1,159,000 gallons. It is impossible to submit any reliable figure of average daily quantity per head, since the population declined considerably in the course of the year. Assuming that the Registrar-General's population of 25,800 represents a satisfactory average estimate for the whole year, the amount consumed is 44.92 gallons per head. The equivalent amount for 1939 was 38.17 gallons.

No serious interruption or contamination of the supply resulted from the effects of air raids.

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage of the Borough flows by gravitation in the water carriage system from all parts of the town to the outfall sewer which discharges itself into the sea at a point 1,250 feet from the shore. There was no change in this system during the year.

Closet Accommodation. No alterations in this respect were carried out during the year. Thus conditions remained as outlined in the Annual Report for 1939, which were that all the houses in the Borough were connected to the sewers with the exception of 342 in the Manston and Cliffsend district. Here other arrangements are in operation, mostly cesspools.

Manston Cottage Homes and St. Lawrence Extra Schools have a combined septic tank system.

Removal and Disposal of Refuse. It is impossible to give, as in previous years, the statistics relating to the quantity collected and disposed of, since the records were destroyed on August 24th.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

An examination of the following table shows that there was no significant outbreak or epidemic of any serious infectious disease during 1940. There was a mild epidemic of German Measles (not notifiable) in the early part of the year. The expected outbreak of ordinary Measles, looked for in the late winter and spring, did not occur. The 20 cases of Cerebro-spinal Fever show a correspondence with the country generally, where sporadic cases of this disease have appeared with greater frequency since war began. A disease associated with overcrowding of young adults and often a concomitant of war, its incidence had been observed with apprehension, but 1940 saw no epidemic of it, either in Ramsgate or elsewhere.

The total number of notifiable infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) was 107 for 1940, as compared with 126 for 1939.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1940.

Disease	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	AGE INCIDENCE.												Total Deaths.
			0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65	
Diphtheria ..	7	7	1	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever ..	15	11	—	—	—	1	—	4	3	2	5	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	28	4	1	4	1	4	2	2	1	2	2	1	7	1	14
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	20	20	—	—	1	1	—	3	2	2	7	—	4	—	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	22	—	1	—	—	—	2	8	4	4	3	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	8	—	—	—	4	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
Total	107	43													

Diphtheria. It will be noted that seven patients were notified as suffering from Diphtheria during 1940, of whom one died. Following the advice of the Minister of Health in Circular 2230, dated 7th December, 1940, the Council, on the unanimous recommendation of the Health Committee, decided to offer free immunisation against this disease, accepting the principle now generally recognised that it is preventable and that its continued prevalence indicates a failure on the part of the public to take advantage of the fruits of applied science.

A vigorous propaganda campaign was forthwith instituted and the first clinic was held on 19th December. Before the end of the year 52 children had received their first dose of antigen. The method of immunisation employed was that recommended by the Ministry of Health, using Alum Precipitated Toxoid (A.P.T.), in two doses injected intra-muscularly, with an interval of four weeks between them. At first 0.2c.c. and 0.5c.c. were given, later reduced to 0.1c.c. and 0.3c.c., as recommended.* In order to simplify the procedure as much as possible, no subsequent Schick Test has been given.

With regard to the treatment of the established disease, following the routine of previous years, anti-diphtheritic serum has been held available for medical practitioners in the town. Sixteen thousand units were issued free of charge during the year and 12,000 units were issued and charged for.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. There were no cases of this disease notified during 1940.

* The recommendation accompanied the issue of alum precipitated toxoid by the Emergency Laboratory Service. In 1941, after further advice, the original dosage was re-introduced.

Diseases of the Enteric Group. Following the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health in a letter dated 13th August, 1940, the Council decided to offer free inoculation against the organisms of Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fevers to such inhabitants of Ramsgate who might ask for it. A propaganda campaign was not launched in this respect similar to that urged for Diphtheria Immunisation, but the availability of such immunisation was particularly brought to the notice of certain groups of persons on account of their special liability to exposure to the risk of infection. Up to the end of the year the work done was as follows:—

	Men.	Women.
Staff of Ramsgate General Hospital—completed course	9	55
A.R.P. Personnel—course in progress	—	10
Others—completed course	2	—

Vaccination. The Vaccination Officer for the district has kindly supplied me with the following particulars:—

Total births registered (i.e., children due for vaccination) ..	87
Successfully vaccinated	34
Insusceptible to vaccination	Nil
Number of certificates from conscientious objectors ..	47
Died unvaccinated	Nil
Postponed by medical certificate	Nil
Removed from district	6

It will be noted that a high proportion, 54 per cent., of parents opposed the vaccination of their children. This indicates that in Ramsgate there is a tendency to distrust the principles of active immunisation, which might, on a priori grounds, be expected to reflect unfavourably on the campaign for Diphtheria Immunisation.

Tuberculosis. Thirty-three cases of Tuberculosis were notified for the first time during the year as compared with 55 in 1939. Of these 27 were of pulmonary disease. Twenty-three deaths were certified as due to this cause, 21 of them of pulmonary disease. One death was of a patient not previously notified, equivalent to a rate of 4.35 per cent.

TABLE.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
15—20 ...	2	2	—	1	1	1	—	—
20—25 ...	2	2	1	—	1	2	—	—
25—35 ...	5	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
35—45 ...	2	3	—	1	5	2	—	—
45—55 ...	3	2	—	—	3	1	—	—
55—65 ...	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	—
Over 65 ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Total ...	15	12	3	3	12	9	2	—

Percentage of non-notified Tuberculosis death .. 4.35.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the Year 1940.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the following report, which shows briefly the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors and myself during 1940.

As may be expected, it has not been possible to carry out the normal routine work of a Sanitary Department owing to the considerable activities required by the Air Raid Precautions Services, including—

Organisation of Squads for the decontamination of Protective and Civilian Clothing.

Arrangements for dealing with Food in the event of poison gas being used.

Examination of food damaged by enemy action.

Attendance at the temporary Mortuary.

Assisting the Town Clerk in rehousing persons homeless.

Assisting the Borough Surveyor regarding First Aid repairs of houses damaged.

Many visits were made to elderly persons in order to persuade them to evacuate the town.

The Department is responsible for the allocation of permits for bunks and cubicles in the deep tunnel shelters.

I desire to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, also Mr. T. L. Martin and Mr. F. Brown, Sanitary Inspectors, for their loyal co-operation during the year which has been a very trying and at times unpleasant year of work with considerable physical tension involved.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. YOUNG,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Complaints.

Number of complaints received and dealt with	211
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Inspections.

Under Public Health Acts and other Acts, Regulations and Orders		5,960
Of houses, number inspected under Housing Act		209
Inspections of drainage systems and subsequent revisits ..		406
Drains tested		59
In connection with Infectious Diseases		87
Animals, keeping of		9
Bakehouses		63
Cowsheds		38
Common Lodging-houses		5
Billets		782
Fish Fryers		18
Food Shops		493
Houses let in Lodgings		13
Ice-cream Vendors		94
Marine Stores, etc.		10
Milkshops and Dairies		98
Merchandise Marks Act		33
Outworkers		10
Overcrowding		10
Premises licensed for music and dancing		1
Premises as to provision of refuse receptacles		192
Premises with reference to rat infestation		30
Repairs and subsequent revisits		364
Restaurants		34
Shipping		20
Slaughter-houses		909
Stables		7
Tuberculosis cases		42
Vermineous premises		21
Shops Act		168

Notices served, etc.

Preliminary notice served or letters written	110
Nuisances abated on verbal instructions	186

Work done in connection with drainage and housing.

The following defects were remedied and improvements carried out during the year:—

Houses re-drained	3
Houses at which drains were repaired	38
Choked drains cleared	23
Intercepting traps fixed	2
Gully traps fixed	14
Inspection chambers built, new covers provided and rendered	23
Fresh air inlet valves fixed	2
Cesspools emptied	62
Soil and vent pipes fixed or repaired	15
W.C. pans fixed	88
Additional W.C.'s built	2
Additional urinals fixed	6
New flushing cisterns provided	4
Flushing cisterns repaired	8
New sinks and baths provided	34
Sink wastepipes renewed or trapped	33
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed	13
Roofs repaired	12
External walls cement rendered	2
Walls treated with damp-proofing material	4
Wall plaster and ceilings repaired	8
Floors relaid or repaired	9
Windows repaired	7
Stoves repaired or renewed	4
Water supply pipes renewed	8
Rooms fumigated and cleaned for vermin	25
Houses renovated	5
Chimney stacks and flues repaired	2
Ventilated food cupboards fixed	3
Yards paved or existing paving repaired	10
Accumulations removed	2
Sanitary bins provided	80
Overcrowding abated	2
Miscellaneous	21

Inspection of Controlled Premises.

The following table shows the number of premises, etc., and inspections made to such premises during the year:—

	Number	Inspections made.
Common Lodging-houses	1	5
Houses let in lodgings	21	13
Slaughter-houses	6	909
Fish Fryers	19	18
Marine Store Dealers	4	10
Fat Melters and Bone Boilers	1	1

Bakehouses.

The number of bakehouses in the Borough and on the register at the end of the year was 40 and 63 inspections were made.

The notices served and verbal instructions given during the year were:—

- 3 as to limewashing.
- 1 „ dirty floors.
- 2 „ dirty W.C. pans.
- 2 „ infestations by mice and insects.

These defects in each case were remedied.

Shops Act, 1934.

The Sanitary Inspectors made 168 visits regarding the requirements of Section 10 as to the arrangements for ventilation, temperature and sanitary and washing facilities, etc.

The following is a summary of work carried out to shop premises:—

Additional sanitary accommodation provided	..	..	1
Shops re-drained	..	..	2
Drains repaired	..	..	7
Blocked drains cleared	..	..	3
New sinks and traps fixed	..	..	2
Improvements to ventilation	..	..	1
Heating appliances installed	..	..	1
Miscellaneous	..	..	2

Theatres, Music Halls, etc.

The places of public amusement licensed for public music and dancing in the Borough numbered 70 and are as follows:—

Cinemas and Music Halls	..	..	..	..	..	5
Theatres	..	..	..	..	..	2
Halls (religious denominations and others)	..	..	..	..	..	14
Hotels and Restaurants	..	..	..	..	..	37
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	12

Factories Act, 1937.

The following table shows the number of factories on the register at the end of the year:—

	Mechanical	Non-Mechanical
Bakehouses	31	10
Building trades	11	13
Upholsterers	2	3
Plumbers and tinsmiths	2	5
Watch and clock repairers	2	6
Tailors	—	7
Printers	6	—
Laundries	6	1
Milliners and dressmakers	—	3
Motor engineers	13	7
Boot and shoe repairs	4	1
Timber yards and saw mills	3	—
Miscellaneous	36	17
	116	73

Disinfestation of Premises.

Number found to be infested:—

Council houses	..	..	..	..	..	7
Others	..	..	..	..	..	5

Number of premises disinfested:—

Council houses	..	..	..	..	..	7
Others	..	..	..	..	..	5

Disinfestation of premises other than Council houses is carried out by local builders under supervision of this Department.

Disinfestation of Persons and Clothing.

As it became evident during the year that the existing arrangements for the cleansing of vermin infested persons would prove to be inadequate, an additional bath was installed at the Cleansing Station in Broad Street. Good use was made of the bathing facilities and the adjoining steam disinfector by troops stationed in the Borough.

Disinfection.

The following rooms were disinfected after cases of infectious disease or on the request of tenants:—

Scarlet fever	..	..	..	..	..	19
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	8
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	33
Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	3
Other causes	..	..	..	..	..	45

456 sets of bedding, clothing, etc., were also removed for disinfection and returned.

HOUSING.**1.—Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects	209
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	364
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	43
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	167
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	166

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	291
---	-----

3.—Action under statutory powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	110
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By Owners	28
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

OVERCROWDING.**4.—Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.**

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	17
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	17
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	105
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	13
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(e) Houses licensed to exceed permitted number during the summer season	Nil

Housing Act, 1936, Section 62.

Number of houses in which owners have requested "Permitted Numbers" for insertion in rent book	147
Number of houses inspected	88
Number of rooms measured	774

PORT SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.**TABLE A.**

	Number Inspected.		Number Reported to be Defective	Defects Remedied	Number of Cases of Infectious Diseases
	By M.O.H.	By S.I.			
Totals	3	21	4	4	Nil

II—CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.

The normal trade carried on by vessels entering the harbour altered considerably during the early part of the year, and after the removal of the contraband control station, little or no shipping entered the port.

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors rendered assistance in the carrying out of fumigation to eradicate bugs on two naval vessels.

III—WATER SUPPLY.

This is obtained from the same source as in previous years. There are no water boats in use.

IV—PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933.

The arrangements outlined in previous reports are still in operation should the occasion arise.

TABLES C AND D.

No case of infectious sickness was landed or reported as having occurred on the voyage.

V—MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

The presence of rats was not evident. Systematic extermination is carried out during the course of the year, but no information is available as to number, nor were any sent for examination.

VII—FOOD INSPECTION.

As no food was imported during the year no action under the various Regulations was taken.

Shell-fish.

As detailed in previous reports, the Pegwell Bay (Shell-fish) Regulations are still in operation.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The number of premises on the register at the end of the year and the number of inspections and notices served during the year is shown in the following table:—

Premises	Number	No. of Inspections	Notices Served
Cowsheds	6	38	—
Dairies	26	66	—
Other Shops	148	32	—

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Licences granted by the Kent County Council—

To produce Accredited Milk	5
------------------------------------	---

Licences issued by the Borough Council—

To distribute Tuberculin Tested Milk bottled outside the Borough	6
To Pasteurise Milk	4
To distribute Pasteurised Milk not bottled on the premises ..	1

Results of Milk Samples taken during 1940 for Cleanliness.

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Samples from Public Elementary Schools	6	1	7
Samples from other sources	14	10	24
	—	—	—
Total	20	11	31
	—	—	—

Results of Biological Tests for Tuberculosis.

	Positive	Negative	Total
Samples from Public Elementary Schools	1	3	4
Samples from other sources	—	2	2
	—	—	—
Total	1	5	6
	—	—	—

Other Licences granted under Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Number of premises registered for the

(a) Sale of ice-cream	67
(b) Manufacture and sale of ice-cream	10
(c) Preparation or manufacture of sausages, pressed, pickled or preserved food	11
(d) Fish curing and smoking	2
(e) Ham cooking	7
(f) Manufacture of sausages	15
(g) Fish frying	12

Ice-cream.

94 visits were paid to premises in which ice-cream is manufactured.

The Sanitary Inspectors devote as much time as possible to supervising the manufacturing establishments and to Vendor's stalls and premises. It is gratifying to note that there has been a steady decrease during recent years in the number of persons who manufacture ice-cream in their houses and distribute it on barrows in the town.

Meat and Other Foods.

The slaughtering of animals for food is now under Government control and meat from two authorised slaughter-houses in the Borough is now sent to butchers' shops throughout the Isle of Thanet.

This arrangement has meant considerable extra work for the staff, inspections having to be carried out early mornings and late at nights.

Owing to the congestion caused, the methods of killing and distribution was not all satisfactory, but the matter was taken up with the Ministry concerned and the methods have considerably improved and the hours of killing re-arranged to our mutual advantage.

All condemned meat and offal is sent to a recognised salvage firm, after being treated with an approved green colouring liquid.

During the year the total weight of food surrendered and destroyed was
15 tons 12 cwt. 2 qrs. 15 lbs.,

including 27 carcasses condemned as suffering from tuberculosis. As in the past, the source of each animal was communicated to the County Medical Officer so that the condition of the herd and the milk supply could be investigated.

Food and Drug Act, 1938.

During the year 90 samples (69 formal and 21 informal) were taken by the Sanitary Inspectors and submitted for analysis to the Public Analyst.

Description of Sample.	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not Genuine
Milk	46	1	36	11
Butter	3	—	2	1
Cocoa	2	—	2	—
Flour (Self-raising) ..	—	10	10	—
Paste (Meat & Fish) ..	—	1	1	—
*Sausages	12	—	12	—
Vinegar	3	—	3	—
Suet	2	—	2	—
Vermicelli Egg	1	1	2	—
Egg Substitute	—	1	1	—
Camphorated Oil	—	3	3	—
Jelly	—	1	1	—
Curd	—	1	1	—
Colouring for Cakes ..	—	1	1	—
Tea	—	1	1	—

The Public Analyst's reports on the samples of milk show the average to be above the recognised minimum standard.

The average figure being: Fat, 3.50; non-fatty solids, 8.84; total solids, 12.34.

† While the two samples of "Pure Egg Vermicelli" are reported as genuine, as it could not be determined that Egg was entirely absent, the use of the word "Egg" is misleading, as the amount of Egg Albumin, if present at all, was very small. The material was coloured with an "aniline" dye.

* The sample of Sausages were also examined as to meat contents and the results were forwarded to the Food Control Committee.

Particulars of the 12 samples reported to be not genuine and action taken in regard to each sample:—

Sample No.	Article	Result of Analysis.				Action Taken.
293	Milk	5%	deficient in fat			Vendor Cautioned
295	Milk	11%	"	"	"	"
307	Milk	7%	"	"	"	"
308	Milk	2%	"	"	"	Follow-up samples of No. 307 and taken in course of delivery from the farm, and all one consignment. The average deficiency of fat being 4%. Farmer Cautioned
309	Milk	5%	"	"	"	
310	Milk	5%	"	"	"	
311	Milk	2%	"	"	"	
312	Milk	6%	"	"	"	
313	Milk	2%	"	"	"	
314	Milk	4%	"	"	"	Vendor Cautioned
346	Milk	8%	"	"	"	Vendor Cautioned
349	Butter	16.13%	of water			"

Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations.

The following 69 samples were taken under the provision of the Food and Drugs Act and were examined by the Public Analyst for the presence of preservatives or added colouring matter:—

Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	47
Butter	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Vinegar	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Colouring for Cakes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Jelly	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Paste	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sausages	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Curd	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

Numerous additional duties were carried out during the year; many, fortunately, did not take up much time, but those which made considerable demands on the time of the Sanitary Inspectors were:—

Billets Occupied by Troops.

782 inspections of premises were made for this purpose. The defects discovered were chiefly caused by overcrowding, and these were remedied when the attention of the Army medical authorities was drawn to them.

Evacuation of Sick and Aged Persons.

The Inspectors made 356 visits under the scheme.

War Emergency Mortuary.

The adaptation of the premises and the recruitment of staff was under the control of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, who also acted as Superintendent. 62 visits were paid to the premises by the Inspectors during 1940.

Inspection of Properties Damaged in Air Raids.

When time permitted the Inspectors assisted in the inspection of damaged houses and 70 houses were so inspected.

In every case where damage is sustained by shops and other premises containing foodstuffs the Inspectors make a thorough inspection of the stock to determine its fitness for human food.

A.R.P. Duties.

One aspect of this which assumed such importance toward the end of 1940 was the conditions existing in the Ramsgate Tunnel Shelters. Many notable people came to inspect them and no doubt their influence, coupled with the strenuous efforts of the Public Health Department Staff, resulted in adequate powers being conferred upon the Corporation in 1941 to deal with conditions which in some cases were only little short of being deplorable. The Inspectors made 156 visits to the tunnels and at the end of the year were actively engaged on introducing a system to secure the proper identification of the persons resorting to the tunnels.

Decontamination of Gas Contaminated Clothing.

The Decontamination Station for this purpose, which serves the Borough as well as the adjoining urban district of Broadstairs, was erected on land near to the "K" Laundry, Northwood. The situation of the site is near to the boundary between the two towns and is thus within easy reach of either. At the end of the year a start was made with the training of the personnel recruited to operate the station.

Decontamination of Food.

Various sites were inspected as regards suitability for this purpose and proposals were forwarded to the appropriate Government Department.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer

For the Year 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my first annual report upon the School Medical Services for the year 1940. As compared with previous reports, it has been considerably curtailed. The special services are not described in detail, and the volume of work undertaken until a large number of school children were evacuated on 2nd June, 1940, was carried out under sometimes difficult conditions. At the same time, during the first half of the year the work accomplished by the department was more considerable than that carried out in the corresponding period of previous years. A marked increase is to be seen in the visits paid by School Nurses to schools in connection with cleanliness and the number of individual children examined is greater.

It is with regret that one must refer to the resignation, on grounds of health, of Dr. W. J. Bannister, for 21 years School Medical Officer to this Borough, on 30th June, 1940.

Perhaps the most outstanding events of the year from the school medical point of view was the evacuation of school children to Staffordshire when the pace of the war quickened so considerably in the early summer. Notice that this Borough was to be an evacuation area was first given on Sunday, 26th May, when the evacuation date was given as a week later, 2nd June. This short notice put a considerable burden of work upon the Education Department in which the School Medical Services shared. It was particularly difficult to meet the new demands because the week of grace corresponded with the evacuation from Dunkirk. However, every school in the Borough was visited by myself and all cases in attendance and scheduled for evacuation, believed by the Head Teachers or known to this office to be abnormal, were duly inspected and appropriately labelled. At some schools, by the enthusiastic co-operation of the Head Teachers, all the children were inspected.

Since evacuation, close touch has been kept with the school medical services of Staffordshire County Council and I should like to pay tribute to the courtesy of the Deputy School Medical Officer of this Authority and to the interest he has always shown in the medical problems of Ramsgate children. It may be said with entire confidence that the amenities provided for our children in this area are satisfactory and that full advantage is taken of them.

It would be wished that the parents of the remaining children who have stayed behind in Ramsgate would take advantage of the facilities of evacuation still open to them and transfer them from a somewhat hazardous and nerve straining atmosphere at Ramsgate to the relatively high safety of villages in a delightful part of rural England.

Subsequent to evacuation no official school medical services have been carried on. The Health Visitors have kept an eye open for more obvious defects, but I am fortunately able to record that no measurable deterioration in the condition of the remaining children has been brought to my notice. Something more in the way of medical inspection is hoped for in the new year.

The Tables given at the end of this report differ in certain respects from those compiled for the Board of Education, but all the available statistics are shown there, whereas some curtailment has been made in the Board's Tables. Should a comprehensive report be required at some time in the future the data are available.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee for their interest and enthusiasm in all aspects of school medical work, and the Secretary for Education, his staff and pre-eminently my own for their co-operation and assistance.

I am,
Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
J. V. WALKER,

School Medical Officer.

Clarendon House,
Ramsgate.
February, 1941.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT RETURNS
Year ended 31st December, 1940.

ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

TABLE I.

No. of inspections in the prescribed age groups:—

Entrants	85	
Second age group	107	
Third do.	128	Total 320
No. of Special Inspections and Re-inspections	918	

TABLE II.

Classification of the nutrition of children inspected during the year in the Routine Age Groups.

Age-groups	Number of Children Inspected.	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly abnormal)		D (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants ...	85	4	4.70	76	89.41	5	5.88	—	—
Second age-group	107	3	2.80	96	89.71	8	7.47	—	—
Third age-group	128	11	8.59	109	85.15	8	6.25	—	—
TOTAL	320	18	5.62	281	87.81	21	6.56	—	—

TABLE III.

GROUP I. TREATMENT OF MINOR (Excluding Uncleanliness).

Defect.	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
Skin:			
Ringworm-Scalp—			
(i) X-Ray treatment ..	—	—	—
(ii) Other treatment ..	1	2	3
Ringworm-Body	1	—	1
Scabies	19	—	19
Impetigo	17	—	17
Other skin disease ..	30	—	30
Minor Eye Defects	19	—	19
Minor Ear Defects	27	—	27
Miscellaneous	323	7	330
Total	437	9	446

GROUP II. TREATMENT OF DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT.

	Number of Defects dealt with.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
Errors of Refraction (including squint)	239	—	239
Other defect or disease of the eyes	12	—	12
Total	251		251
Number of children for whom spectacles were:	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
(a) Prescribed	53	—	53
(b) Obtained	51	—	51

GROUP III. TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

Number of Defects.			
Received Operative Treatment		Received other forms of treatment.	Total Number treated.
Under Authority's Scheme.	Apart from Authority's Scheme		
3	—	46	49

TABLE IV.
DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

- (1) Number of children inspected by the Dentist:—
(a) Routine age groups—

Age.	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total
Number	24	19	62	110	128	138	83	90	88	16	758

(b) Specials .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	217
(c) Total (Routine and Specials)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	975
(2) Number found to require treatment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	746
(3) Number actually treated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	402
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	612
(5) Half-days devoted to—											
Inspection .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Treatment .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45
(6) Fillings—											
Permanent teeth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	220
Temporary teeth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
(7) Extractions—											
Permanent teeth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	138
Temporary teeth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	466
(8) Administration of general anæsthetics	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
(9) Other operations—											
Permanent teeth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Temporary teeth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5

TABLE V.
VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

(i) Average number of visits per school made during the year by											
School Nurses .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8.2
(ii) Total number of examinations of children in schools by School											
Nurses .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,183
(iii) Number of individual children found unclean	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	144
(iv) Number of individual children cleansed under Section 87 (2) of											
Education Act, 1921 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(v) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken:—											
(a) Under Education Act, 1921 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

TABLE VI.
BLIND AND DEAF CHILDREN.

Number of totally or almost totally blind and deaf children who are not receiving education suitable to their special needs.

	At Public Elementary Schools.	At an Institution other than a Special School	At no school or Institution.	Total.
Blind Children	—	—	—	—
Deaf ..	—	—	—	—

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

Total notified during year by Local Education Authority to Local					
Mental Deficiency Authority under the Mental Deficiency (Notifi-					
cation of Children) Regulations, 1928 .. ..	..	..	..	..	Nil

